(c) India has a strong and rapidly growing afforestation programme. Currently, two major schemes are being implemented namely, National Afforestation Programme Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country and Grants-in-aid to Greening India. The Grants-in-aid to Greening India was restructured in 2005.

Effect of global warming on glaciers

432. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that based on the observation of U.N. Inter-Governmental panel on climate change that the glaciers in Himalayas are receding faster than any other parts of the world leading to earth warming;

(b) if so, whether this situation would influence the perennial rivers becoming seasonal rivers;

(c) the serious repercussions and implications of such a situation; and

(d) whether it is not important and urgent to establish an automated weather situation monitor and glacier melting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government of India is aware of the Report of U.N. Inter-Governmental panel on climate change and its related concerns.

(b) and (c) The findings reported in the IPCC Report are based on modeling studies. However, more comprehensive studies would be required to substantiate these findings. According to Geological Survey of India, retreat and advance of glacier is a natural process. Majority of the Glaciers of Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession as has been the case with glaciers located in other of the World. Global warming could be the cause of the recession of glaciers rather than the effect of such recession and is directly related to the amount of snow it receives in the catchments during winter which is varying.

(d) A number of automatic weather stations have already been established by various Government agencies. The glacier dynamics are being studied continuously through project mode under the Himalayan Glaciology Programme of Department of Science and Technology for the last two decades.

Plan for pollution free Yamuna

†433. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date of starting work on the plan to make the Yamuna pollution free;

(b) the pollution level of the Yamuna at the time of starting of the plan;

(c) the total amount spent so far to make the Yamuna pollution free; and

(d) the pollution level of Yamuna as on December 31, 2008?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The first phase of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna was started in April, 1993 in the three States of UP, Delhi and Haryana. YAP-I was completed in February, 2003 at a total expenditure of Rs. 682 crore with the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 million liters per day (mld). The second Phase of YAP, an ongoing programme, commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore. Till November, 2008, an expenditure of Rs. 148.74 crore has been incurred by the States under YAP-II and schemes for sewage treatment capacity of 189 mld has been sanctioned so far.

(b) and (d) At the start of YAP, the water quality of river Yamuna in its stretch upto Palla in Haryana (upstream of Delhi) was conforming to the prescribed water quality criteria whereas the levels of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) varied from 1-26 milligram/litre (mg/l) in its stretch from Okhla to Etawah against the prescribed limit of 3 mg/l. Presently, the water quality in the stretch of river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla is found to be within the prescribed limits whereas the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad Barrage to upstream of Okhla Barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standards in terms of BOD of 3.0 mg/l mainly due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

Eviction of tribals from reserve sanctuary

434. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the Forest Department is trying to evict tribal villages from the reserve sanctuary area where we have already statute to all of forest land to tribal in forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): No, Sir. Only voluntary relocation of villages with the consent of villagers is encouraged as per the provisions of existing Acts.

Water pollution caused by drug factories

435. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 90 drug factories in Andhra Pradesh have spewed their drug residues in urban areas which caused water most polluted even after treatment and the dangerous level of pollution goes up to 30,000 times;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to prevent such hilarious spew of drug residues by the pharma companies; and

(c) the details of the restrictions and terms maintained by Government for setting up of pharma industries near river areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The majority of drug factories in Andhra Pradesh are located at Patancheru in Medak district and Jeedimetla in Rangareddy district. The Jeedimetla common